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AN ACT
RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; CHANGING GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
FOR STUDENTS ENTERING NINTH GRADE IN THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL
YEAR.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 22-13-1.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws
1986, Chapter 33, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-13-1.1. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS--NEXT-STEP PLANS--
GRADUATE PROFILES.--

A. The purpose of the New Mexico diploma of
excellence is to demonstrate that a student is ready for
success in post-secondary education, gainful employment and
citizenship and is equipped with the skills to be a lifelong
learner. The purpose of the state's minimum graduation
requirements is to establish rigorous expectations to support
that success.

B. School districts and charter schools are
encouraged to make available courses and programs of study
that allow students to pursue a range of post-secondary
opportunities, workforce opportunities and knowledge in
entrepreneurship principles, as determined by the student's
next-step plan and the school district or charter school's
graduate profile.

C. At the end of grades eight through eleven, each

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1 student shall prepare an interim next-step plan that sets
2 forth the coursework for the grades remaining until high
3 school graduation. Each year's plan shall be aligned to the
4 graduate profile of the student's school district or charter
5 school, shall explain any differences from previous interim
6 next-step plans, shall be filed with the principal of the
7 student's high school and shall be signed by the student, the
8 student's parent and the student's guidance counselor or
9 other school official charged with coursework planning for
10 the student.

11 D. Each student must complete a final next-step
12 plan during the senior year and prior to graduation. The
13 plan shall be aligned to the graduate profile of the
14 student's school district or charter school, shall be filed
15 with the principal of the student's high school and shall be
16 signed by the student, the student's parent and the student's
17 guidance counselor or other school official charged with
18 coursework planning for the student.

19 E. An individualized education program that meets
20 the requirements of Subsections C and D of this section and
21 that meets all applicable transition and procedural
22 requirements of the federal Individuals with Disabilities
23 Education Act for a student with a disability shall satisfy
24 the next-step plan requirements of this section for that
25 student.

1 F. A local school board or governing body of a
2 charter school shall ensure that each high school student has
3 the opportunity to develop a next-step plan based on reports
4 of college and workplace readiness assessments, as available,
5 and other factors and is reasonably informed about:

6 (1) curricular and course options, including
7 honors or advanced placement courses, dual-credit courses,
8 distance learning courses, career clusters and career
9 pathways, pre-apprenticeship programs or remediation programs
10 that the college and workplace readiness assessments indicate
11 to be appropriate;

12 (2) opportunities available that lead to
13 different post-high-school options; and

14 (3) alternative opportunities available if
15 the student does not finish a planned curriculum.

16 G. The secretary shall:

17 (1) establish specific accountability
18 standards for administrators, counselors, teachers and school
19 district or charter school staff to ensure that every student
20 has the opportunity to develop a next-step plan;

21 (2) promulgate rules for accredited private
22 schools in order to ensure substantial compliance with the
23 provisions of this section;

24 (3) monitor compliance with the requirements
25 of this section; and

1 (4) compile such information as is necessary
2 to evaluate the success of next-step plans and report
3 annually, by December 15, to the legislative education study
4 committee and the governor.

5 H. Once a student has entered ninth grade, the
6 graduation requirements shall not be changed for that student
7 from the requirements specified in the law at the time the
8 student entered ninth grade.

9 I. For students entering the ninth grade beginning
10 in the 2009-2010 school year, at least one of the units
11 required for graduation shall be earned as an advanced
12 placement or honors course, a dual-credit course offered in
13 cooperation with an institution of higher education or a
14 distance learning course.

15 J. The department shall establish a procedure for
16 students to be awarded credit through completion of specified
17 career technical education for certain graduation
18 requirements, and districts may choose to allow students who
19 successfully complete an industry-recognized credential,
20 certificate or degree to receive additional weight in the
21 calculation of the student's grade point average.

22 K. Successful completion of the requirements of
23 the New Mexico diploma of excellence shall be required for
24 graduation for students entering the ninth grade beginning in
25 the 2009-2010 school year. Successful completion of a

1 minimum of twenty-four units aligned to the state academic
2 content and performance standards shall be required to earn a
3 New Mexico diploma of excellence. These units shall be as
4 follows:

5 (1) four units in English, with major
6 emphasis on grammar, nonfiction writing and literature;
7 provided that department-approved work-based training or
8 career and technical education courses that meet state
9 English academic content performance standards shall qualify
10 as one of the four required English units;

11 (2) four units in mathematics, of which one
12 shall be the equivalent to or higher than the level of
13 algebra 2, unless the parent submitted written, signed
14 permission for the student to complete a lesser mathematics
15 unit; and provided that a financial literacy course or
16 department-approved work-based training or career and
17 technical education course that meets state mathematics
18 academic content and performance standards shall qualify as
19 one of the four required mathematics units;

20 (3) three units in science, two of which
21 shall have a laboratory component; provided that department-
22 approved work-based training or career and technical
23 education courses that meet state science academic content
24 and performance standards shall qualify as one of the three
25 required science units;

1 (4) three and one-half units in social
2 science, which shall include United States history and
3 geography, world history and geography, government and
4 economics and one-half unit of New Mexico history;

5 (5) one unit in physical education, as
6 determined by each school district or charter school, which
7 may include a physical education program that meets state
8 content and performance standards or participation in
9 marching band, junior reserve officers' training corps or
10 interscholastic sports sanctioned by the New Mexico
11 activities association or any other co-curricular physical
12 activity;

13 (6) one unit in one of the following: a
14 career cluster course, workplace readiness or a language
15 other than English; and

16 (7) seven and one-half elective units that
17 meet department content and performance standards. Career
18 and technical education courses shall be offered as an
19 elective. Student service learning shall be offered as an
20 elective. Financial literacy shall be offered as an
21 elective. Pre-apprenticeship programs may be offered as
22 electives. Media literacy may be offered as an elective.

23 L. For students entering the eighth grade in the
24 2012-2013 school year, a course in health education is
25 required prior to graduation. Health education may be

1 required in either middle school or high school, as
2 determined by the school district or charter school. Health
3 education courses shall include:

4 (1) age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault
5 awareness and prevention training that meets department
6 standards developed in consultation with the federal centers
7 for disease control and prevention that are based on
8 evidence-based methods that have proven to be effective; and

9 (2) lifesaving skills training that follows
10 nationally recognized guidelines for hands-on psychomotor
11 skills cardiopulmonary resuscitation training. Students
12 shall be trained to recognize the signs of a heart attack,
13 use an automated external defibrillator and perform the
14 Heimlich maneuver for choking victims. The secretary shall
15 promulgate rules to provide for the:

16 (a) use of the following instructors
17 for the training provided pursuant to this paragraph: 1)
18 school nurses, health teachers and athletic department
19 personnel as instructors; and 2) any qualified persons
20 volunteering to provide training at no cost to the school
21 district or charter school that the school district or
22 charter school determines to be eligible to offer instruction
23 pursuant to this paragraph; and

24 (b) approval of training and
25 instructional materials related to the training established

1 pursuant to this paragraph in both English and Spanish.

2 M. For students entering the ninth grade in the
3 2017-2018 school year and subsequent school years:

4 (1) one of the units in mathematics required
5 by Paragraph (2) of Subsection K of this section may comprise
6 a computer science course if taken after the student
7 demonstrates competence in mathematics and if the course is
8 not used to satisfy any part of the requirement set forth in
9 Paragraph (3) of that subsection; and

10 (2) one of the units in science required by
11 Paragraph (3) of Subsection K of this section may comprise a
12 computer science course if taken after the student
13 demonstrates competence in science and if the course is not
14 used to satisfy any part of the requirement set forth in
15 Paragraph (2) of that subsection.

16 N. Final examinations shall be administered to all
17 students in all classes offered for credit.

18 O. Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, a
19 student shall not receive a New Mexico diploma of excellence
20 if the student has not demonstrated competence in the subject
21 areas of mathematics, reading and language arts, writing,
22 social studies and science, including a section on the
23 constitution of the United States and the constitution of
24 New Mexico, based on a standards-based assessment or
25 assessments or a portfolio of standards-based indicators

1 established by the department by rule. The standards-based
2 assessments required in Section 22-2C-4 NMSA 1978 may also
3 serve as the assessment required for high school graduation.
4 If a student exits from the school system at the end of grade
5 twelve without having satisfied the requirements of this
6 subsection, the student shall receive an appropriate state
7 certificate indicating the number of credits earned and the
8 grade completed. If within five years after a student exits
9 from the school system the student satisfies the requirements
10 of this subsection, the student may receive a New Mexico
11 diploma of excellence. Any student satisfying the
12 requirements of this subsection and completing all other
13 requirements within five years of entering ninth grade,
14 including a final summer session if completed by August 1,
15 may be counted by the school system in which the student is
16 enrolled as a high school graduate for the year in which all
17 requirements are satisfied.

18 P. Beginning with students entering the ninth
19 grade in the 2024-2025 school year, successful completion of
20 a minimum of twenty-two units aligned to the state academic
21 content and performance standards shall be required for
22 graduation and the award of a New Mexico diploma of
23 excellence. These units shall be as follows:

24 (1) four units in English, which must
25 include a sequence of three units; provided that department-

1 approved work-based learning, career technical education or
2 English language development courses that meet state English
3 or English language development academic content and
4 performance standards may qualify as required English units;

5 (2) four units in mathematics, two of which
6 shall include a sequence of algebra I and geometry or another
7 integrated pathway of mathematics equivalent to algebra I and
8 geometry; provided that department-approved work-based
9 learning or career technical education courses that meet
10 state mathematics academic and performance standards may
11 qualify as required mathematics units; and provided further
12 that algebra II shall be offered as a mathematics course;

13 (3) three units in science, two of which
14 shall have a laboratory component; provided that department-
15 approved work-based learning or career technical education
16 courses that meet state science academic content and
17 performance standards may qualify as required science units;

18 (4) four units in social science, which
19 include United States history and geography, which course
20 content contains New Mexico history; government and economics
21 and personal financial literacy, which course content
22 contains civics; and world history and geography;

23 (5) one-half unit in physical education, as
24 determined by the school district or charter school, which
25 may include a physical education program that meets state

1 academic content and performance standards or participation
2 in marching band, junior reserve officers' training corps or
3 interscholastic sports sanctioned by the New Mexico
4 activities association or any other co-curricular physical
5 activity;

6 (6) one-half unit in health education;

7 (7) four elective units that meet department
8 academic content and performance standards and that must
9 include a two-unit pathway concentration of the student's
10 choice in a language other than English, fine arts, health,
11 military career preparation, career technical education,
12 community learning or a capstone course or work-based
13 learning; provided that financial literacy, computer science,
14 student service learning, career technical education courses
15 and a sequence of languages other than English shall be
16 offered as electives; and provided further that media
17 literacy and pre-apprenticeship programs may be offered as
18 electives; and

19 (8) two units set by each local school board
20 or governing body of a charter school that meet department
21 academic content and performance standards.

22 Q. If a high school student who has taken one or
23 both units provided in Paragraph (8) of Subsection P of this
24 section moves from one school district or charter school to
25 another, the receiving school district or charter school

1 shall accept those earned units toward the student's
2 graduation.

3 R. For students entering the ninth grade in the
4 2024-2025 school year, one-half unit of health education is
5 required in high school. Health education courses shall
6 include:

7 (1) age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault
8 awareness and prevention training that meets department
9 standards developed in consultation with the federal centers
10 for disease control and prevention that are based on
11 evidence-based methods that have proven to be effective; and

12 (2) lifesaving skills training that follows
13 nationally recognized guidelines for hands-on psychomotor
14 skills cardiopulmonary resuscitation training. Students
15 shall be trained to recognize the signs of a heart attack,
16 use an automated external defibrillator and perform the
17 Heimlich maneuver for choking victims. The secretary shall
18 promulgate rules to provide for the:

19 (a) use of the following instructors
20 for the training provided pursuant to this paragraph: 1)
21 school nurses, health teachers and athletic department
22 personnel as instructors; and 2) any qualified persons
23 volunteering to provide training at no cost to the school
24 district or charter school that the school district or
25 charter school determines to be eligible to offer instruction

1 pursuant to this paragraph; and

2 (b) approval of training and
3 instructional materials related to the training established
4 pursuant to this paragraph in both English and Spanish.

5 S. Nothing in the minimum graduation requirements
6 specified in Subsection P of this section affects:

7 (1) a school district's or charter school's
8 authority to require more units for graduation than provided
9 in this section; or

10 (2) a student's opportunity to take advanced
11 placement or honors courses or distance learning courses
12 offered by the public school or dual credit courses offered
13 in cooperation with institutions of higher education.

14 T. Subject to the department's academic content
15 and performance standards and other provisions of this
16 section, every school district and charter school shall
17 develop a graduate profile:

18 (1) that is specific to each community;

19 (2) that outlines the core academic
20 competencies and subjects that are key to graduates' post-
21 high school success; and

22 (3) to which required units are aligned.

23 U. The department shall adopt and promulgate rules
24 to implement graduation requirements by no later than
25 December 31, 2023. The rules shall include revisions to

1 expand course offerings so that students have access to a
2 range of rigorous academic options and career technical
3 education courses and to establish guidance for the
4 development of graduate profiles.

5 V. As used in this section:

6 (1) "capstone course" means a multifaceted
7 academic and intellectual experience that may take a wide
8 variety of forms and that culminates in a final product or
9 performance and a presentation explaining how the final
10 product or performance explicates the chosen course to an
11 evaluation panel convened by the public school to evaluate
12 the quality of the course and the final product or
13 performance;

14 (2) "career technical education" means
15 organized programs offering a sequence of courses, including
16 technical education and applied technology education, that
17 are directly related to the preparation of individuals for
18 paid or unpaid employment in current or emerging occupations
19 requiring an industry-recognized credential, certificate or
20 degree;

21 (3) "career technical education course"
22 means a course with content that provides technical
23 knowledge, skills and competency-based applied learning and
24 that aligns with educational standards and expectations as
25 defined in rule;

1 (4) "career cluster" means a grouping of
2 occupations in industry sectors based on recognized
3 commonalities that provide an organizing tool for developing
4 instruction within the educational system;

5 (5) "career pathways" means a sub-grouping
6 used as an organizing tool for curriculum design and
7 instruction of occupations and career specialities that share
8 a set of common knowledge and skills for career success;

9 (6) "final next-step plan" means a next-step
10 plan that shows that the student has committed or intends to
11 commit in the near future to a four-year college or
12 university, a two-year college, a trade or vocational
13 program, an internship or apprenticeship, military service or
14 a job;

15 (7) "graduate profile" means a document that
16 a school district or charter school uses to specify the
17 cognitive, personal and interpersonal competencies that
18 students should have when they graduate;

19 (8) "interim next-step plan" means an annual
20 next-step plan in which the student specifies post-high-
21 school goals and sets forth the coursework that will allow
22 the student to achieve those goals; and

23 (9) "next-step plan" means an annual
24 personal written plan of studies developed by a student in a
25 public school or other state-supported school or institution

